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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (S E N S I T I V E A D D E D)

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

ISN/CB FOR ASOUZA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PARM ETTC FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH FEEDBACK ON U.S. AUSTRALIA GROUP PROPOSALS

REF: A. STATE 87595

1B. STATE 87596

1C. STATE 87597

1D. STATE 88010

11. (SBU) SUMMARY. With several specific exceptions, France is generally supportive of U.S. proposals for the September 21-25 Australia Group plenary. Specific feedback is summarized below in informal translation, arranged by reftel.

The original responses, in French, will be sent separately by email to POC. Post notes that, in response to Ref A, the GOF supports the creation of an experts group to discuss chemical micro-reactors, but prefers that such a group be restricted to government experts and not include industry representatives. END SUMMARY.

12. (SBU) Summary of French response to Ref A (STATE 87595): The Australia Group (AG) currently does not currently deal with micro-reactors, which can however produce between 20 - 300 milliliters per minute but are small enough to fit into compact locations. They can also produce chemical agents with a level of purity that reduces the need for extra purification stages and the amount of waste produced. Before submitting these production systems to AG control, it is necessary to answer the following questions: what are the current production capabilities of micro-reactors? How are they integrated into the chemical industry? What are emerging trends? France also supports the creation of a group of experts to examine the proliferation risks of micro- and meso-reactors. However, France prefers that this group be restricted to governmental exports, who would be responsible for liaising with their national industry.

13. (SBU) Summary of French response to Ref B (STATE 87596): The addition of a technical note under the "Valves" section (NOTE: French original incorrectly references item "number 9" here. END NOTE) clarifying the term "nominal size" is logical and acceptable. However, the technical note under the "Pumps" section restricting the term rotors to vacuum pump rotors only is too restrictive, since other types of pumps, including centrifuge pumps, also have rotors.

14. (SBU) Summary of French response to Ref C (STATE 87597): France supports the addition of a technical note specifying that listed alloys are those that "contain a higher percentage by weight" of the named metal than any other metal. Setting a lower limit of a 35% by weight fluorine composition for controlled fluoropolymers is also logical. Since the compounds with the lowest amount of fluorine by weight contain 39%, the lower limit could even be set at 38% or 39%. Regarding the technical note on ferrosilicon, it would be logical to clarify that the controlled ferrosilicon alloys in the "Pumps" section are those containing 10-18%

silicon to distinguish them from other silicon-containing alloys. Due to the anti-corrosive and anti-abrasive properties of certain ceramic materials, France also agrees on the need to include mention of ceramics in the control language in the "Pumps" section. However, this language should also be maintained in the "Valves" section, as recently added.

15. (SBU) Summary of French response to Ref D (STATE 88010):
The argument to add a technical note to set a control threshold of 2.5 millimeters or greater for fluoropolymer coatings on products is convincing. However, although a 2.5 millimeter coating is necessary to protect against abrasion, coatings as thin as 0.75 millimeters could protect against corrosion. Therefore, a lower threshold of 1, 1.5, or 2 millimeters might be considered, although administratively it will be necessary for the control limits for anti-corrosion and anti-abrasion coatings to be identical, given the practical impossibility of determining whether the end user wishes to protect against corrosion or abrasion.

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